GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1735
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015
ELECTION TO FUNCTIONARIES
Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the practical problems arising in holding election of functionaries from Gram Sadaysa to Gram Pradhan, Village Development Committee and District Development members in Panchayat elections simultaneously;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any assessment regarding the problems arising in voting on four slips simultaneously in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) Holding of elections to the Panchayats and to any of its offices and for functionaries at any levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions is the responsibility of the State Governments and the State Election Commissions. The Constitution mandates that where the Part IX of the Constitution applies, Panchayats elections be conducted every five years, under the overall superintendence, direction and control of the State Election Commission. Besides, the Constitution also empowers the State Legislatures to make laws regarding elections. Normally, the elections are held to Panchayats as per schedule except in the cases of pendency of court cases etc.

(b) to (d) The issue relating to the manner and mode of voting in election to Panchayats broadly fall in the purview of the State Governments and the State Election Commission concerned and any problem in this regard is also to be addressed primarily by them as per their respective statutes. Therefore, there has been no need on the part of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to conduct any such assessment.